REMARKS

35 U.S.C. 102(e)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(e) as being unpatentable over Bunnell (US Patent No. 6, 119, 122). In response, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 6, 11, and 16, and dependent claims 5, 10, and 15 to overcome the 103(e) rejection.

Applicant submits that the independent claims as amended, are allowable for at least the following reasons:

With respect to independent claims, Bunnell, either alone, or in combination does not teach, describe, or suggest the claim elements a layered hierarchical database, and using state attributes to control the merging and updating of the layers when a client request is received.

The state attributes of the present invention are different than the state properties mentioned in the patent by Bunnell. Further, Bunnell does not teach merging of the layers to form one resulting hierarchically data structure in response to a client request.

For the reason mentioned above, the Applicant asserts that Bunnell does not anticipate independent claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(e). As claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-15, and 17-20 depend from claims 1, 6, 11, or 16, these claims are in a condition for allowance as well.
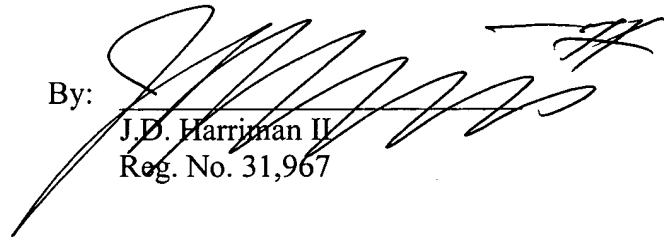
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CONCLUSION

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-20. In response, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 6, 11, and 16, and amended dependent claims 5, 10, and 15. Applicant asserts that the present application as amended is in a condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

COUDERT BROTHERS LLP

By: _____
J.D. Harriman II
Reg. No. 31,967